

MAY 5 1971

May 3, 1971

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
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RH-699

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I enjoyed reading your column prepared for "Science & Man" (s226) and apologize for the delay in answering your request.

The literature certainly points out a correlation between suppression of the immune mechanisms and the incidence of cancer. However, as best I can determine, this relationship is limited to use of the antimetabolites and is not a concern of the corticosteroids. As a matter of fact, corticoids have been used therapeutically with, unfortunately, little or no success. On the other hand use of these steroids has not resulted in stimulation of neoplastic growth.

Although this does not speak directly to your question of long-term carcinogenic potential of systemic corticoids, it is as close as I can come. I hope this information is helpful.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

Robert Hill

Robert Hill, Ph.D.
Director of Toxicology

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